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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/678,859	10/03/2003	In-Soon Son	0104-P0003A	2448
66837	7590	09/26/2007	EXAMINER	
HYUN JONG PARK			NGUYEN, TUAN VAN	
41 WHITE BIRCH ROAD			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
REDDING, CT 06896-2209			3731	
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			09/26/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/678,859	SON, IN-SOON	
Examiner	Art Unit		
Tuan V. Nguyen	3731		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 July 2007.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-3 and 10-11 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-9 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-3, 10 and 11 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 03 October 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date . 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) Other: ____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's arguments filed on July 11, 2007 with respect to claims 1-3 have been fully considered but they are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.
2. According to the amendment, applicant added claims 10-11. Now claims 1-3 and 10-11 are pending in this present application.

Specification

3. The specification is objected to for the following reason: reference number 6a is not described in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action
 - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
5. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

6. **Claims 1-3 and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferber (U.S. 5,709,647) in view of Lew (U.S. 5,448,777).**

7. Referring to claims 1-3 and 10-11, Ferber discloses (see Figs. 6A-6B and 3A-3B) a pain relief clip, that capable to perform as a treatment device for stimulating spinal cord reflex points on a finger as claimed by the applicant, comprising: a hinge part 603; a coil spring 604 coupled to the hinge part; a pair of arms 601, 602 or finger grip parts wherein the arm 601 includes first portion 608 and second portion 606, similarly, the arm 602 includes first portion 608' and second portion 606' (see col. 8, line 45 to col. 9, line 8). Ferber also discloses the arm can be made from plastic material (see col. 11, lines 10-18). Ferber discloses the invention substantially as claimed except for plurality of protrusion on disposed on the inner surface of the first portion 608 and 608' of the arm 601 and 602, respectively, the protrusions are being made of metal such as alloy and the protrusion parts have a specific dimension.

8. Still referring to claims 1-3 and 10-11, however, Lew discloses (see Figs. 1-4a) pressure pad 54, 78 and 112 made of aluminum, magnetic material or stainless steel (see col. 5, lines 63-68) for stimulate the reflex point on a person hand and fingers, wherein the pressure pad 54, 78, 112 has plurality of protrusions and entire height of about 0.41 cm (0.15 + 0.16 + 0.1 = 0.41) or 4.1 mm (see col. 3,

lines 60-65 and col. 4, lines 40-50). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made by the applicant to incorporate the pressure pad 78, as disclosed by Lew, to incorporate into the inner surface of arm 608 and 608' of Ferber's device, to further utilizing the device of Ferber by having a interchangeable pad that has plurality of protrusions that having different size of pressure pad to apply to a specific finger to treat a specific condition as suggested by Lew (see col. 2, line 50 to col. 3, line 2). Furthermore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made design the protrusion pad with the height in a range between 2 mm and 7 mm, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan V. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-5962. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, AnhTuan Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-4963. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tuan V. Nguyen
September 19, 2007


ANHTUAN V. NGUYEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

9/20/07